बताया गया है, बंजर भूमि को और अधिक हरा भरा करने में इसका योगदान अधिक नहीं है।

(ख) और (ग) यह सर्वविदित है कि गाय के गोबर/गोबर की खाद के उपयोग से मृदा की उर्वरता में सुधार होता है। गाय के गोबर और खेती अवशेषों को मृदा की उर्वरता को सुधारने के लिए वनस्पति खाद के रूप में प्रयोग किया जाता है, लेकिन अब तक गाय के गोबर के साथ समुद्र के पानी को मिला कर कोई परीक्षण नहीं किया गया है।

(घ) भारत में, अच्छी किस्म का पानी प्रचुर मात्रा में उपलब्ध है। समुद्र के पानी को उसके अधिक खारेपन के कारण जाना जाता है। अतः वर्तमान समय में कृषि के लिए इसके प्रयोग की आवश्यकता महसूस नहीं की गई है।

Profit of Steel Authority of India Ltd.

2779. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Ltd. has recorded a net profit of Rs. 433.20 crores in the current financal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof with areas of profit;

(c) whether such huge profits have been contributed by different steel plants of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, plant-wise;

(e) whether Government propose to make better utilisation of these profits for future; and

(f) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. SAIL has earned a net profit (provisional before audit) of Rs. 433.20 crores in the first six months of the current financial year. Profits have been earned during normal business operations after providing for interest and depreciation. Details thereof under major components are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	Six Months ended 30th September 95
— Sales/Other Income	6666.44
— Total Expenditure	5536.27
— Interest	405.82
— Gross Profit after interest but before depreciation & taxation	724.35
— Depreciation	291.15
— Provision for Taxation	—
— Net Profit (after tax)	433.20

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The profits have been contributed mainly by Bhilai Steel Plant and Bokaro Steel Plant.

(e) and (f) Profits of SAIL are being utilised for modernisation of steel plants, upgradation of technology, increase in the production capacity, replacing of old assets and also for payment of dividend to its shareholders.

Assessment of Saline Land

2780. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the saline land in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government have adopted any new technology to reclaim the saline land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) No systematic survey has been carried out to assess the extent of saline land in the country. However, as per the Report of the National Commission on Agriculture (1976), an extimated area of about 7.2 million hectare is affected with both salinity and alkalinity in the country.